

**ROCKFORD TRAFFIC COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD**

Wednesday, January 12, 2011, 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Mr. George Zawislak at 6:07 PM.

**Members Present**

Mr. George Zawislak, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Dock Ward  
Mr. Thomas Okite  
Mr. Gregg Wilson, Transportation, School District 205  
Officer William Jacobson, Rockford Police Department  
Mr. Jeffrey Cowles, Rockford Fire Department  
Mr. Gary McIntyre, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Mr. Jonah Katz, Planning Division, Community Development Department  
Mr. Jeremy Carter, Public Works Department

**Members Absent**

Mr. Fred Lierman, Chairman  
Mr. Leland Carlson  
Alderman Linda McNeely, 13<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Mr. Ron Muzzarelli, Rockford Mass Transit District

**Also Present**

Mr. Jarrod Hennis, 400 E. State Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 61104

The minutes of the last regular meeting held on November 10, 2010, were approved as submitted.

**The Traffic Commission recommended the following items:**

1. Request from Mr. Jarrod Hennis, 400 E. State Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 61104, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward, to repeal the existing "2 Hour" parking on the east and west sides of 1<sup>st</sup> Street from State Street to 105 feet north of State Street and replace with "3 Hour" Parking. (Mr. Hennis discussed he wanted longer parking for people using his building at 400 E. State Street. Commission discussed that other business in area were in favor. Commission discussed parking for customer of versus parking for employees. Commission recommended approval of request. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by T. Okite. Voted 8-1)
2. Request from City staff for "No Parking Any Time" on the east side of South Main Street from Mill Street to Kent Street in the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward. (J. Carter discussed that this was last area of parking along South Main and that this is requested in preparation of improvements IDOT will be making in future. Commission discussed parking had been for a business that is no longer in business. Commission recommended approval of request. Motion by G. McIntyre, seconded by J. Katz. Voted 9-0)

3. Request from City Staff to repeal 20 MPH School Speed Limit on John Street from Church Street to Court Street. (J. Carter discussed removing the school speed zone that was no longer needed due to school closing in the 1980's. Commission recommended repeal of 20MPH School Speed Limit. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 9-0)

**The Traffic Commission recommended taking “No Action” on the following items:**

1. Request from Alderman Bill Timm, 9<sup>th</sup> Ward and Third Presbyterian Church, 1221 Custer Avenue, 61103, for Mid-Block Pedestrian Crossing approximately 125' east of Fremont Street. (Commission discussed that this item had been considered previously. Commission discussed that there are currently signs and ADA ramps in place. Commission discussed amount of recent requests for mid-block crossing. G. McIntyre discussed recent changes in philosophy of mid-block crossing due to push towards more walk able communities. Commission discussed lack of standardized criteria or warrants for mid block crossing. Commission request that City Staff prepare criteria for mid-block crossings. Commission recommended No Action Motion by G. McIntyre, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 9-0).
2. Request from Mrs. Molly Carter, 610 N. Rockford Avenue, 61107, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward for Yield or Stop sign control at the intersection of Greenwood Avenue and North Rockford Avenue. (Commission discussed that Greenwood Avenue currently yields for Rockford Avenue and that there is more traffic on Rockford Avenue than Greenwood Avenue. Commission discussed there has been no accidents recently. Commission recommended No Action Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 9-0).
3. Request from Mr. Enrique Perez, 1219 21<sup>st</sup> Place, 61104, in the 11<sup>th</sup> Ward, to repeal the No Parking Any Time ordinance for the north side of 21<sup>st</sup> Place between 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Street. (Commission discussed that street appeared narrow and that emergency vehicles could have difficulty getting through if there was parking on both sides and snow. Commission discussed that majority of surveys came back to leave parking as is. Commission recommended No Action Motion by G. Wilson, seconded by D. Ward. Voted 9-0).
4. Request from former Alderman Joe Sosnowski, 1<sup>st</sup> Ward, for stop sign control at the intersection of Centennial Trail and Tulip Lane. (Commission discussed that this item had been considered previously, most recently in April 2010. Commission discussed low traffic volumes and that Centennial should already stop for Tulip since it is a “T” intersection. Commission recommended No Action Motion by T. Okite, seconded by G. McIntyre. Voted 9-0).

**Other items:**

J. Carter discussed that per Traffic Commission request at the November 2010 meeting, he had looked at the Sandy Hollow Road for ways to reduce the left turn accidents that were occurring. J. Carter stated that the Average Daily Traffic was low enough that a reduction of lanes from 4 lanes to 3 lanes or “road diet” was possible. The reduction of lanes would allow for a center turn lane which should reduce the amount of left turn accidents. J. Carter stated he would be applying from Highway Safety Improvement Program money this year for this proposed project. Commission discussed need to introduce rules of conduct for citizens addressing the commission. Many commission members stated they felt citizens had “crossed a line” at the November Traffic Commission meeting. Commission asked City Staff to prepare of code of conduct or provide one if it already exists.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 PM. Motion by J. Carter, seconded by G. McIntyre.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held:  
**Wednesday, February 9, 2011, 6:00 PM.**

Rockford City Hall  
425 East State Street  
2nd floor, Conference Room A

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Carter  
Recording Secretary